

# Covenant Congregational Church

## Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of Worship

November 19, 2017

10:30 a.m.

SONG

*The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

Hymn #98

*(Children K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are dismissed to Children's Church at this time)*

PRELUDE *We Gather Together* arr. Thygerson

INTROIT *Enter Now the Gates* Wagner

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Mark Ingalls

\*GATHERING SONG *Come, You Thankful People, Come* Hymn #654

\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKS (based on Psalm 119:19-29)

We thank You LORD God, for You alone are good,

**and Your lovingkindness is everlasting.**

With the faithful of every time and place we declare,

**everlasting lovingkindness is Yours alone.**

Open for me the gates of justice,

so that I may enter and give thanks to the LORD.

**This is the gate of the LORD,**

**where those who live justly may enter.**

I give thanks because You have answered me

**and became my rescuer.**

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the first, the cornerstone.

**The LORD has brought this about, and it is astounding.**

This is the day the LORD has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

LORD, save us;

**let us enjoy success.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

**We bless You from the house of the LORD.**

The LORD is God, and has given us light;

join in celebratory procession up to the altar.

**You are my God, and I give You thanks;**

**You are my God, and I praise You with great joy.**

Give thanks to the LORD, who alone is good,

**and whose lovingkindness is everlasting.**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Sandy Willette

THE WORD OF GOD

Bob Buckley

Old Testament Reading:

*Ezra 5 NRSV*

O.T. page #424

<sup>5</sup> Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them. <sup>2</sup> Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak set out to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem; and with them were the prophets of God, helping them.

<sup>3</sup> At the same time Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and their associates came to them and spoke to them thus, "Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?" <sup>4</sup> They also asked them this, "What are the names of the men who are building this building?" <sup>5</sup> But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, and they did not stop them until a report reached Darius and then answer was returned by letter in reply to it.

<sup>6</sup> The copy of the letter that Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and his associates the envoys who were in the province Beyond the River sent to King Darius; <sup>7</sup> they sent him a report, in which was written as follows: "To Darius the king, all peace! <sup>8</sup> May it be known to the king that we went to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God. It is being built of hewn stone, and timber is laid in the walls; this work is being done diligently and prospers in their hands. <sup>9</sup> Then we spoke to those elders and asked them, 'Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?' <sup>10</sup> We also asked them their names, for your information, so that we might write down the names of the men at their head. <sup>11</sup> This was their reply to us: 'We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished. <sup>12</sup> But because our ancestors had angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hand of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia. <sup>13</sup> However, King Cyrus of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, made a decree that this house of God should be rebuilt. <sup>14</sup> Moreover, the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem and had brought into the temple of Babylon, these King Cyrus took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to a man named Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor. <sup>15</sup> He said to him, 'Take these vessels; go and put them in the temple in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its site.' <sup>16</sup> Then this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem; and from that time until now it has been under construction, and it is not yet finished.' <sup>17</sup> And now, if it seems good to the king, have a search made in the royal archives there in Babylon, to see whether a decree

was issued by King Cyrus for the rebuilding of this house of God in Jerusalem. Let the king send us his pleasure in this matter."

Response: The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Defeating Discouragement* Pastor Jason

\*RESPONSE SONG *Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart* Hymn #423

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Choral Offertory *Hymn of Thanks* Walker and Schram  
Flute: Lou Ann Falls 48

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* Prayer of Dedication

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Jason

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Giving Thanks* Cagan

\*POSTLUDE *Blessed Be Your Name* arr. Wagner

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\*Please stand in praise to God, if able  
CCLI #982653

**Thank you for participating in our worship gathering!** We are glad that you are here this morning and pray that this might be a meaningful faith-building experience for you and/or your family. Following this Worship Gathering, you are invited to join in the *Souperfest*, a fundraising luncheon for our Mission Ministry, in the lower level Activity Center.



Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church  
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